

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03184 180144Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 ICA-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /059 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 716
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3184

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SN
SUBJECT: GOS ACCEPTS NATIONAL WAGES COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: SINGAPORE 2960

1. GOS ON JULY 8 ACCEPTED NATIONAL WAGES COUNCIL GUIDELINES FOR 1978-79, WITH SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERSCALE GRADES AND NATIONAL SERVICEMENT. LINKING OF INCREASES TO PRODUCTIVITY AND LENGTH OF SERVICE (PARA 3, REFTEL) AFFIRMED, AND ADOPTION OF MERIT/DEMERIT SCHEMES ADVOCATED.
2. GOS STATEMENT SPECIFIES THAT RANGE AND QUANTUM OF FRINGE BENEFITS SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED IN RENEWAL OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS, AND ADVISES NEW INVESTORS TO FOLLOW PROVISIONS OF EMPLOYMENT ACT IN GRANTING FRINGE BENEFITS.
3. AT SAME TIME GOS HAS INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS DEDUCTED FROM SALARY TO CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (SOCIAL SECURITY) BY ONE PERCENT TO SIXTEEN AND A HALF PERCENT FROM EMPLOYERS, AND SAME FOR EMPLOYEES MAKING OVER S\$200 PER MONTH. THIS INCREASE MUST
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BE KEPT AS SAVINGS AND CANNOT BE USED TO PURCHASE APARTMENTS OR BONDS (SUCH AS RECENT SINGAPORE BUS SERVICE ISSUE). MONTHLY SALARY CEILING FOR CPF PAYMENTS RAISED FROM S\$2000 TO S\$3000.

4. AS NOTED REFTEL, PRESS REACTION TO NWC GUIDELINES GENERALLY FAVORABLE. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF LETTERS TO

EDITOR OF STRAITS TIMES HAVE PROTESTED DECREASE IN
TAKE-HOME PAY FOR MIDDLE INCOME EARNERS, MANY OF
WHOM PAYING PRIVATE HOUSING MORTGAGES FOR WHICH CPF
FUNDS CANNOT BE USED. CHINESE LANGUAGE NANYANG SIANG
PAU EDITORIAL JULY 11 MILDLY CRITICAL ALONG SIMILAR
LINES. CHINESE LANGUAGE SIN CHEW JIT POH SAME DATE
REPORTS COMMENTS OF OFFICIALS OF SINGAPORE MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION AND SINGAPORE EMPLOYERS FEDERATION THAT
CPF INCREASE IS SURPRISING AND UNEXPECTED, AND
IMPLICATION IS THAT INCREASE CONSIDERED TOO HIGH.
INGRAHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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